


Application No.:  known

Docket No.: BB1321-1

Page 3

- B3  
could
26. An isolated nucleic acid molecule that encodes a UDP-galactose 4-epimerase polypeptide and remains hybridized with the isolated polynucleotide of Claim 23 under a wash condition of 0.1X SSC, 0.1% SDS, and 65°C.
  27. A cell or a virus comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 23.
  28. The cell of Claim 27, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a yeast cell, a bacterial cell, an insect cell, and a plant cell.
  29. A transgenic plant comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 23.
  30. A method for transforming a cell comprising introducing into a cell the polynucleotide of Claim 23.
  31. A method for producing a transgenic plant comprising (a) transforming a plant cell with the polynucleotide of Claim 23, and (b) regenerating a plant from the transformed plant cell.
  32. An isolated a UDP-galactose 4-epimerase polypeptide having a sequence identity of at least 80% based on the Clustal method compared to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24.
  33. The isolated polypeptide of Claim 32 wherein the polypeptide has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24.
  34. A chimeric gene comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 23 operably linked to at least one suitable regulatory sequence.
  35. The chimeric gene of Claim 34, wherein the chimeric gene is an expression vector.
  36. A method for altering the level of a UDP-galactose 4-epimerase polypeptide expression in a host cell, the method comprising:
    - (a) Transforming a host cell with the chimeric gene of claim 34; and
    - (b) Growing the transformed cell in step (a) under conditions suitable for the expression of the chimeric gene. --
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